

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
8:30 a.m. Monday, January 14, 2008
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
Santa Fe Room
350 West Maryland Street
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Attendance

SSCB Members

Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Jim Cherry
Larry Clemens
Warren Baird
Bill Mann
Gary Conant

Judy Bengochea, Sullivan SWCD
Benton Stidd, Monroe SWCD
Brian Spurgin, Fayette SWCD
Jim Hess, Elkhart SWCD
Ray Chattin, Knox SWCD
Kenny Cain, Montgomery SWCD
Ray McCormick, Knox SWCD
Glenn Lange, Marion SWCD
Jon Roberts, Kosciusko SWCD
Robert Woodling, Monroe SWCD
John Bittner, Vanderburgh SWCD
Bonnie Bittner, Vanderburgh SWCD
Gene Weaver, Ohio SWCD
Lyle Burtsfield, Elkhart SWCD
Garry Tom, Kosciusko SWCD
Sherm Bryant, Kosciusko SWCD
Bob Hettmansperger, Wabash SWCD
Calvin Hartman, Howard SWCD
Terry Hillman, Fayette SWCD
Sam Mellett, Crawford SWCD

Audience

Jerod Chew, ISDA
Kelly Gentry, ISDA
Crissy Goode, ISDA
Amy Eizinger, ISDA
Ken Eck, ISDA
Jerry Hartley, ISDA
Dan Dunten, ISDA
Tara Henry, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Jim Lake, ISDA
Jim Droege, IASWCD
Larry Strole, IASWCD
Jeff Meinders, IASWD
Roger Kult, NRCS
Dan Hovland, NRCS
Gail Peas, FSA
Michelle Howell, FSA

8:40 AM: Call to order

Bob Eddleman welcomed everyone to the January 14, 2008 meeting.

Draft Minutes of December 2007

Nola Gentry moved to approve the minutes as presented. Warren Baird seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business

Nominating Committee Report and Officer Election – Gary Conant

Gary Conant reported that the SSCB Nominating Committee has nominated Nola Gentry for Chairman of the SSCB and Jim Cherry for Vice Chairman. If approved they will take office at the next SSCB meeting. They will also be sworn in this Wednesday, January 16th during the Annual Conference.

Baird moved to approve the nominations of Nola Gentry for Chairman and Jim Cherry for Vice Chairman of the SSCB. Bill Mann seconded and motion carried.

New Business

District Request – Kelly Gentry

Supervisor Temporary Appointment – See Attachments

Kelly Gentry presented the request of temporary supervisor appointment from Decatur SWCD. Decatur requests the temporary appointment of Reuben Kissel due to no election held.

N. Gentry moved to approve the request of recommendation for supervisor appointment for Decatur SWCD. Cherry seconded and the motion carried.

Ohio County 2006 AFR – See Attachments

Mann moved to accept the 2006 Ohio Country AFR. Baird seconded and the motion carried.

CWI Request – Amy Eizinger – See attachments

Amy reported that 82 counties applied for 2008 CWI Conservation Marketing Incentive Grant (CMIG). N. Gentry suggested they do one blanket approval as long as all the paperwork is complete and they each meet the requirements of the grant. Discussion followed on one overall approval for the CMIG.

Baird made a motion to approve all 82 CWI Conservation Marketing Incentive Grants pending the completion of paperwork and requirements. The counties include: Adams, Allen, Benton, Blackford, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Cass, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Daviess, Decatur, DeKalb, Delaware, Dubois, Elkhart, Floyd, Fountain, Franklin, Fulton, Gibson, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Henry, Howard, Huntington, Jasper, Jay, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Noble, Ohio, Orange, Owen, Parke, Perry, Porter, Posey, Pulaski, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, St. Joseph, Starke, Stuben, Sullivan, Switzerland, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vanderburgh, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warren, Warrick, Washington, Wayne, Wells and Whitley. Cherry seconded and the motion carried.

Eizinger also reported the CWI Sediment and Nutrient Grants are due February 1st. Eddleman suggested having a special meeting to go over the CWI Sediment and Nutrient Grants before the March meeting. He asked if Kelly Gentry could work with Deb Fairhurst and set up a blind link and post all the applications once they are received so the SSCB can review them prior to the meeting.

The board came to a consensus to meet on February 18th at 10:00 AM at ISDA. A decision to cancel the March SSCB meeting will be decided on a later date.

Larry Clemens asked the District Support Specialist how many districts have applied for the Sediment and Nutrient Grants. Jim Lake stated about half of the districts in the Northeast region have applied.

Dan Duntan asked if the leftover funds from the CWI Conservation Marketing Incentive Grants will roll over to the Sediment and Nutrient Grants. Eddleman replied they would roll the funds over.

Clark County CWI Reallocation Request – See Attachment

N. Gentry moved to approve the Clark County reallocation request with a new deadline of October 2008. Mann seconded and the motion carried.

District Capacity Committee Report and Recommendations – Nola Gentry

N. Gentry reported no change for Rule 5 since the last board meeting.

CWI Grants Committee Report and Recommendations – Warren Baird – No Report

Executive Committee Report and Recommendations – Bob Eddleman – No Report

Public Comments – No comments

Division Report

CREP Update – Jerod Chew – See Attachments

Clemens stated our goal was to obligate 7000 acres. He asked how long we have to obligate the remaining 3100 acres. Gail Peas, FSA, stated CREP will continue to roll forward with the current Farm Bill. There is no set end date for CREP.

Chew mentioned the Division would like to see the rest of the acres obligated by the end of our fiscal year, June 2008. He also mentioned we would be running monthly reports to keep with the trend of FSA. We would need approximately 1200 contracts in the next six months to reach the remaining acres. We are working with Gail and FSA on getting an amendment submitted to add more acres and include the Wabash River. If we open more watersheds then we should be able to reach our goals. To boost these goals we will be rearranging staff and focus more on CREP.

Chew also mentioned the interest landowners are having in easement, but they misunderstand the time to get these easements in place and paid is a detailed process that takes substantial time and staff. It has been challenging to get a proper protocol and process in place. Jim Droege, IASWCD, asked how many contracts are currently in easements. Chew replied 5-10 contracts are in the process of getting their paperwork through. More discussion followed on easements and DNR.

CWI Report – Amy Eizinger – See attachments

Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

Chew reported some of the RSs will be focusing on CREP and helping the CREP Coordinators. He also reported his role will be changing to focus on the RSs and technical support for CREP. The DSS team will have a new leader that will provide support and guidance for them.

District Support Update – Jerod Chew

Scott Trennepohl will resign as a DSS. He was elected to the Farm Bureau state board and will focus more on farming. We are currently performing interviews for the DSS positions. Chew also mentioned district visits are scheduled for February.

Workgroup Updates

Please note workgroup leaders have changed.

Leadership Development Workgroup Update – Nola Gentry

N. Gentry mentioned to watch for people with the Leadership Institute buttons. If you have questions on LI seek Crissy Goode or anyone with the LI buttons, or stop by the booth during Annual Conference.

Delivery System Workgroup Update – Jerod Chew – No Report

Funding Workgroup Update – Bob Eddleman – No Report

Accountability Workgroup Update – Deb Fairhurst – See Attachments

Technology Workgroup Update – Jane Hardisty – No Report

Outreach Workgroup Update – Jim Droege – No Report

Conservation Partner Reports

DNR Report – Gary Langell – No Report

IDEM Report – Marylou Renshaw – No Report

Purdue Report – Gary Steinhardt – No Report

IASWCD Report – Jim Droege

Droege commended the committees, staff and partners on a great job getting ready for the Annual Conference. Droege also mentioned the disappointment when no DSSs were present during the district regional meetings.

FSA Report – Gail Peas – See Attachments

NRCS Report – Roger Kult – See Attachments

SWCD Foundation Report – Christa Jones – No Report

Next meeting: Monday, February 18, 2008 at 10:00 AM at ISDA

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM